

1. (Canceled) A method of cutting pattern pieces from a continuous roll of material comprising the steps of unrolling said material unto a said rotating cylindrical cutting surface, and then cutting said material during rotation of said cylindrical surface.

2. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said rotating cylindrical surface includes vacuum means internally of said rotating cylindrical surface communicating with said material.

3. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 2 further including drive means internally of said cylindrical cutting surface for rotatably driving said cylinder.

4. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 3 further including a plurality of cutting means for cutting said material.

5. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 4 including control means for controlling each of said plurality cutting means so as to cut said material.

6. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein each said plurality of cutting means include cutting wheels which are selectively individually activated for cutting said material in a selective manner.

7. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 6 including air assist means for assisting the unwinding of said material from a roll.

8. (Canceled) Apparatus for cutting pattern pieces from a continuous roll of material comprising:

(a) a rotating cylindrical cutting surface for unwinding said material from a roll unto said rotating cylindrical surface;

(b) cutting means for cutting said material on said said rotating cylindrical cutting surface;

(c) rotatable drive means for rotatably driving said cylindrical cutting surface.

9. (Canceled) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8 further including a vacuum means disposed internally of said rotating a cylindrical cutting surface.

10. (Canceled) Apparatus as claimed in claim 9 further including a plurality of holes disposed through said rotating cylindrical cutting surface for communicating with said vacuum means.

11. (Canceled) Apparatus as claimed in claim 10 further including a plurality of rails presenting said cutting means.

12. (Canceled) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said rails include a pair of cutting means.

13. (Canceled) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said cutting means include cutting wheels for cutting said material in a selected pattern.

14. (Canceled) Apparatus as claimed in claim 12 including computer means for controlling the rotation of said cylindrical cutting surface as well as the activation and deactivation of each of said plurality of cutting wheels.

15. (Canceled) A method of producing a vinyl pool cover from a continuous web of vinyl comprising:

(a) unrolling said web from a roll of vinyl unto a rotating cylindrical cutting surface;

(b) cutting through said web with cutting means while said web is supported by said rotating cylindrical cutting surface during rotation of said cylindrical cutting surface so as to provide segments of said pool cover;

(c) unloading said segments of said pool cover;

(d) securing said segments of said pool cover together so as to produce said pool cover.

16. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said segments are overlapped and fused so as to produce said pool cover.

17. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said cutting step includes selectively:

(i) cutting through said web to produce a desired shape of segment of said pool cover,

(ii) disengaging said cutting step.

18. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said cutting step is selectively controlled by computer means.

19. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said cutting step comprises of a plurality of cutting heads selectively activated by said computer means so as to produce said desired shape of segments of said pool cover.

20. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein said rotating cylindrical cutting surface includes the application of vacuum means when said web is in rolling contact with said rotating cylindrical cutting surface.

21. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said cutting means is disposed on rail means, said rail means disposed substantially parallel to the axis of rotation of the cylindrical cutting surface.

22. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said cylindrical cutting surface rotates about an axis of rotation and said cutting means traverses said material in a direction parallel to said axis of rotation so as to cut said material while said material is in rolling contact on said cylindrical surface.

23. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein said cutting means moves along said rail means so as to cut said material.

24. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said cutting means comprises cutting wheel means controlled by computer means for moving said cutting wheel means across said material.

25. (Canceled) A method of cutting pattern pieces from a continuous roll of material comprising the steps of:

- (a) unrolling said material from said roll;
- (b) placing said material onto a cylindrical cutting surface rotating about an axis of rotation;

(c) cutting said material by displacing cutting means axially across said surface.

26. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 25 wherein said cutting step is produced while said cylindrical surface continuously rotates about said axis of rotation.

27. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said material is wrapped around the arc of said cylindrical surface, and moves in unison with said rotating cylindrical surface as said cutting means cut said material.

28. (Canceled) A method of cutting pattern pieces from a continuous strip of material comprising the steps of unrolling said material unto a cylindrical cutting surface, and then moving cutting means along cutting support means across said cylindrical surface to cut said material where said cutting means are disposed so as to allow overlapping cut trajectories to cut said pattern pieces completely from said material.

29. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 28 wherein said cylindrical cutting surface is stationary.

30. (Canceled) A method as claimed in claim 28 wherein said cylindrical cutting surface is rotating only in the material advancing direction and said cutting support means is spaced from said rotating cylindrical cutting surface, and said cutting support means comprises beams.

31. (Canceled) A method of cutting pattern pieces from a continuous web of material comprising the following steps:

providing at least two cutting means and a rotating cylindrical cutting surface;

advancing the web of material over the cylindrical cutting surface;

moving the cutting means across the cylindrical cutting surface; and

cutting the web of material while rotating the cylindrical cutting surface in only one direction.

32. (Twice Amended) A method of cutting pattern pieces from a continuous web of material comprising the following steps:

providing at least two cutting means and a rotating cylindrical cutting surface;

driving a cylinder that defines the cylindrical cutting surface internally of the cylindrical cutting surface;

advancing the web of material over the cylindrical cutting surface;

moving the cutting means across the cylindrical cutting surface; and
cutting the web of material while rotating the cylindrical cutting surface in
only one direction.

33. (Twice Amended) A method of cutting pattern pieces from a continuous
web of material comprising the following steps:

providing at least two cutting means and a rotating cylindrical cutting
surface;

providing a hollow cylinder having an outside surface that defines the
cylindrical cutting surface, the hollow cylinder having holes therein
communicating with the cylindrical cutting surface;

providing a suction air supply in association with the hollow cylinder;

creating a vacuum internally of the rotating cylindrical cutting surface that
communicates with the surface;

advancing the web of material over the cylindrical cutting surface;

moving the cutting means across the cylindrical cutting surface; and

cutting the web of material while rotating the cylindrical cutting surface in
only one direction.

34. (Canceled) A method as described in claim 35, wherein the cutting
means move independently of each other.

35. (Canceled) A method as described in claim 35 further comprising:
providing an air assist means, and unwinding the web of material from the
cylindrical cutting surface using the air assist means.

36. (Canceled) A method as described in claim 35, wherein at least one of
the cutting means spans the width of the rotating cylindrical cutting surface.